

REPORT FROM TENNESSEE

The 2003 gathering of the Nail-Ray Association was held June 6-8 in western Tennessee. Clarene and James Russell organized and hosted the entire weekend of visiting, sightseeing, and fellowship!



The festivities began with a wonderful “welcoming dinner” Friday evening at Clarene and James’s home in Collierville. Twenty of the “usual suspects” converged upon Collierville from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, and Virginia. There we were greeted by forty-three of our Russell cousins, most from Collierville, Memphis, and surrounding areas of western Tennessee. Clarene and James had set up enough tables and chairs throughout their lovely home to accommodate all 63 (yes, sixty-three!) of us for an elaborate sit-down dinner. Each table was decorated with a beautiful bouquet featuring roses grown in James’s personal rose garden. Helping Clarene and James with the dinner were (left photo below, left to right) Clarene’s sister Jean Jordan, Clarene and James’s daughter Kathi Reisz, and Jan Russell.



On Saturday, we were treated to a tour of some of the most interesting attractions in Memphis. Highlights included Elvis Presley's Graceland mansion, the Duck Walk at the Peabody Hotel, the Jade Exhibit at the Peabody Place Museum, and the Smithsonian's Rock and Soul Museum. Clarene had arranged a luxurious motorcoach for our tour, and the driver (Ed, a longtime friend of Clarene and James) was able to give us some fascinating background information about Memphis and Collierville.



Elvis's living room at Graceland.



Visiting Elvis's grave.



On the balcony of the Peabody Hotel, waiting for the famous ducks to make their entrance.



Lunch in a private dining room at the Rendezvous Restaurant. Alex is really looking forward to some of their "world-famous charcoal ribs."



A small part of the magnificent Jade Exhibit at the Peabody Place Museum.



Terry Keller and Tom Plymate marvel at one of the many elaborate carvings at the Jade Exhibit.

Saturday evening was spent at the Dunn Schoolhouse. The structure was built in 1925 as a two-room school for the African-American children in Fayette County. When the school closed in 1967, the Dunn family acquired the property, renovated the building, and has maintained it to this day as a “family gathering place.” Pictured in right photo below (left to right): Melvin Dunn Russell, Mamie (Russell) Turner, James Russell, Mike Morse, David Ray Turner, and Terry Keller. Melvin and his wife Donna were our hosts for the evening.



The evening began with a delicious dinner of fried catfish with hush puppies and all the trimmings.



After dinner, we retired to the “parlor” for our annual business meeting.



On Sunday morning, we worshiped with the congregation of the Collierville United Methodist Church. They hold their early service each Sunday in their historic sanctuary on the beautifully preserved Collierville Square.



The final event of the weekend was a farewell brunch at the beautiful Collierville Country Club.



**NEXT YEAR — BACK TO SHELBY COUNTY, INDIANA
FOR THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF OLD UNION METHODIST CHURCH**

Rebecca Markel, Tom and Lynda Plymate, and Dick Weakley will host the 2004 Nail-Ray get-together in Shelby County, Indiana. On Friday, June 11, Tom and Lynda will host the welcoming dinner at the Thomas/Plymate farmstead. (They're looking forward to showing off the newly restored front porch!) On Saturday, June 12, Dick will conduct a tour of the historic sites of downtown Indianapolis. On Sunday, June 13, we'll join the congregation of Old Union Methodist Church for an old-fashioned homecoming to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of that historic church. Mark your calendars! Hope to see you there!

Family Members Present at the 2003 Gathering

Descendants of HENRY NAIL (1771-1827) and MARY (KELLER) NAIL (1776-1857):

From JOHN NAIL and MARTHA RAY:

Through Christina Nail Berry: **James Milton Russell** (wife **Clarene**), Collierville, TN
Kathi (Russell) Reisz, Dalton, GA
Alex Reisz, Dalton, GA
Howard Earl Russell (wife **Lillie Ann**), Collierville, TN
Richard Alexander Russell, Collierville, TN
Carolyn (Russell) Foster (husband **Taylor**), Collierville, TN
Jack Russell (wife **Sue**), TN
Lisa Anne (Russell) McMahan (husband **Dan**), Collierville, TN
Jack Russell, Jr., TN
Virginia Gertrude (Morton) Seward, Eads, TN
Ronnie Seward (wife **Jackie**), Collierville, TN
Paul Seward (wife **Laura**), Cordova, TN
Raymond Earl Morton (wife **Greta**), Cordova, TN
Janie Juanita "Neta" (Morton) Bonnette, Memphis, TN
Alfred Morris Morton (wife **Tommie**), Bartlett, TN
Wilbur Woodson Russell, Jr., Oxford, MS
Melvin Dunn Russell (wife **Donna**), Collierville, TN
Michael Kevin Russell (wife **Aven**), Collierville, TN
Maribeth Russell, Collierville, TN
Mamie Ruth (Russell) Turner, Memphis, TN
James Milton Turner (wife **Linda**), TN
Tara Ann Turner, TN
James McHugh Turner, TN
David Ray Turner, Memphis, TN
Jan (Hayes) Russell, Collierville, TN
John Woodson Russell, Collierville, TN
Jeffrey Herman Russell (wife **Sara**), Memphis, TN

Through Perlina Nail Steward: **Julia (Smith) Sherer**, Tower Hill, IL
Janet (Morgan) Ross (husband **David**), Springfield, VA

From SAMUEL NAIL and CHERRY WRAY:

Through Rebecca Nail Thomas: **Thomas George Plymate** (wife **Lynda**), Springfield, MO
Robert Elwood Thomas (wife **Arlene**), Shelbyville, IN
Patricia (Thomas) Montgomery (husband **Floyd**), Waldron, IN

Descendant of ABRAHAM KELLER, brother of MARY (KELLER) NAIL:

Terry Keller (wife **Barbara**), Dongola, IL

Descendants of THOMAS RAY (1762-1829) and ELIZABETH (PEARCE) RAY (1767-1844):

From HUDSON RAY:

Through Barnabas Ray: **Billie Lee (Alcott) Rammelsberg** (husband **Glen**), Blairstown, IA
David Walter Ross (wife **Janet**), Springfield, VA
Through Mary Ray Goodrich: **Richard Weakley** (guest **Paul Lippert**), Shelbyville, IN

From JAMES WRAY:

Through Wiley Wray: **Barbara Snow**, McLean, VA
Through Cherry Wray: Descendants listed under her husband SAMUEL NAIL, above.

From GILLY RAY BYERLY:

Through Elizabeth Byerly Hill: **Katy (Morse) Bruce** (husband **Bob**), Kenney, IL
Dallas Michael Morse, Kenney, IL
Joan Morse, Kenney, IL

From MARTHA RAY NAIL:

Descendants listed under her husband JOHN NAIL, above.

Pinkston relatives of Clarene (Pinkston) Russell:

Jean (Pinkston) Jordan, Memphis, TN (Clarene's sister)
Robert Howard and Sherry Pinkston, South Haven, MS (Clarene's nephew and niece)

Members who could not attend the 2003 meeting sent their greetings:

Doris Barlow Shelbyville, Indiana	Hope you all are well. Enjoy being together. I'm OK.
Sue Bogardus Warsaw, Kentucky	I had a stint put in my heart about two years ago – not been well since. Carl's daughter Nancy died 3/25/03; buried in Nashville, IN. I will miss being with all of you.
Hugh & Ruth Brady Fort Myers, Florida	It sounds like a great meeting! Ruth spends her time in her wheel chair or her bed. We do get out to church or short trips to friends' homes.
Inez & Bill Brown Zebulon, North Carolina	Bill had a stroke 9/9/02 and then a mini-stroke 2/25/03. Doing OK now. I had surgery (breast cancer) twice in March. I'm doing OK. Maybe we can be with you next year.
Betty & Paul Cook Terre Haute, Indiana	Unable to attend – will be on a wedding cruise with our granddaughter. Memphis is a great city – enjoy the good food. We will miss you all. Unfortunately, I have to report the death of three family members: brother Elwood McGrew, sister-in-law Mildred McGrew, and nephew Bill Eddington. Hope to see you next year.
Dori & Tom Dvorak Clutier, Iowa	Not able to attend this year. Nathan is in summer school; Ben is talking a blue streak; Tom is finishing his first year of electrical apprenticeship. I continue to work as a chiropractor. We look forward to seeing you next year.
Maurice Holmes 1473 E. McKay Rd., Apt. 216 Shelbyville, IN 46176 (317) 398-3919	NEW ADDRESS! He recently sold his home and has moved to an assisted-living facility.
Martin & Alice Kauzlarich Hebron, Illinois	Busy raising goats. Summer is a busy season. We are fine.
Helen (Wray) & Jack Lawson Newport News, Virginia	We were very glad to meet all of you last year. Jack has just had his hip replaced and is in rehab. Have a wonderful time; we will be thinking of you.
Richard Mansfield Beaverton, Oregon	Can't attend this year. In June of 2002 we celebrated my mother's 100 th birthday (Julie Pauline Smith Mansfield). She will be 101 on 6/20/03. Thanks for the newsletter. We appreciate the effort various people make to keep things going.
Rebecca (Thomas) Markel 2455 Tamarack Tr., Apt. #14 Bloomington, IN 47408 (812) 339-8003	NEW ADDRESS! Since the middle of March I have been at Meadowood Retirement Community. I really enjoy being here. I am near the campus of Indiana University. I shall miss you but I look forward to being together at next year's gala celebration.
Cherry Page Encinitas, California	I am thankful for the folks who carry on the Nail-Ray Association. I have joined the DAR (through Thomas Ray). My big "HI" to all who know me.
Lana Patterson Walnut Creek, California	Lana wrote us a nice letter (which we circulated at the business meeting) detailing the trip she and her sister Lynn Brody made across the country tracing their Nail roots.
Lenore Stanton Topsham, Maine	Have a grand and glorious time together. Hope I can meet you all some day. Thanks to all who work to keep the Nail-Ray Association alive.
Beverly Twiss Decatur, Illinois	Received "the Big Book." Wonderful!

Gone But Not Forgotten:

This year we mourned the loss of three members of our organization:

- Mildred McGrew, Terre Haute, Indiana (8/5/02)
- Eldon May, Kansas City, Kansas (1/24/03)
- Martha (Thomas) Whitehead, Lebanon, Indiana (4/19/03)

Lost Souls:

Newsletters to the following members have been returned with no forwarding address. If you know the whereabouts of any of these individuals, please let us know.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Eldredge, Mrs. Bradley S. (Amy) | 7265 Wyngate Way | Cumming, GA 30040 |
| Hensell, Mrs. Florence | 901 Essington Rd. Apt 121 | Joliet, IL 60435-8404 |
| Merryman, Allie | 2492 Hwy 508 | Onalaska, WA 98570 |
| Miller, Mrs. Ken | 7200 Cahill Rd. #100 | Minneapolis, MN 55435 |
| Stewart, Jacqueline F. | 33 Morningside Drive | San Francisco, CA 94132 |
| White, Mary A. | 22311 Washington Rd. | Carlyle, IL 62231 |

If you have not yet paid your dues for 2003 and want to stay on our mailing list, please send \$10.00 to
NAIL-RAY ASSOCIATION
 Dr. Rebecca T. Markel, Treasurer
 2455 Tamarack Trail, Apt. 14
 Bloomington, IN 47408